

The Indianapolis Times

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Brains or Bars
When public authorities pay any attention at all to prisons, they usually are thinking of walls, cells, steel bars and the like. The jailor's complex dominates. Interest is all centered in safe custody of convicts.

This would be all right if we kept all prisoners shut up forever and never released them. But, aside from some lifers, all prisoners sooner or later will be released. Hence we ought to do a little thinking about what will happen when these men get out. Thus far prisons have discharged them more degenerate human beings than they were upon admission.

Reformation is nothing more nor less than effective education.

We welcome, therefore, Austin H. MacCormick's "The Education of Adult Prisoners," just published by the National Society of Penal Information. This book is the first—indeed, the only—thorough study of the prison education situation in the United States.

Present conditions, well known to students of penal institutions, are appalling. There are no schools worth mentioning in more than ten out of the sixty state prisons in our country. There are none at all in thirteen of these prisons. In not one is there any adequate provision for vocational education.

MacCormick outlines a comprehensive program which includes rudimentary academic, vocational, health, social and cultural education. Further, he outlines the fundamental principles which must prevail: (1) adoption of individualized instruction; (2) avoidance of reliance on mere stereotyped programs and routine; (3) recognition that convict education is adult education, and not the feeding of juvenile instruction to grownups; (4) a broad and inclusive curriculum designed to meet all needs; and (5) making interest rather than compulsion the psychological basis of the system.

In the goal of making better citizens out of prisoners, an expansive conception of citizenship must prevail.

The Perils of Curiosity

Henry R. Fuller, talented salesman for the famous Boston publishers, Houghton Mifflin Company, found himself in Memphis one Saturday evening recently. He hesitated to invade the privacy of professors' homes to vend his wares on the Sabbath. He was fed up on movies.

His chief avocation being the study of economic and social conditions, and having heard much about the treatment of Communists in southern cities, he decided to learn the facts. He did—good and plenty.

To be completely above board, he went to police headquarters and asked to be directed to Communist headquarters. Whereupon he was told:

"Their headquarters are right here, sonny. You are in the right place."

Mr. Fuller was yanked in, roughly handled, put on the secret docket of the Memphis police and kept in the local jail for two days. Friends were not allowed to see him. He was given no soap or towel and not allowed to shave.

Confirmation of the suspicion that Mr. Fuller was a secret agent of Stalin was furnished to the police by the fact that he had in his possession a magazine containing an article by Norman Jones.

In due time it appeared that the police had pulled a bad boner in putting Mr. Fuller in the hoosegow. He proved no ordinary vagrant Red; indeed, no ordinary book salesman.

He was found to be a graduate of the University of North Carolina, a descendant of John Sevier, first Governor of Tennessee, and a grandson of one of General Robert E. Lee's trusted officers.

Moreover, nothing redder than an interest in American life could be proved against him.

So Mr. Fuller was turned loose on Monday with three days' growth of beard. Mayor Overton assured the trembling citizens of Memphis that the city was in no imminent danger of a Communist uprising.

But the police came dangerously near to making at least one new Communist. As Mr. Fuller expressed it: "I walked into the Memphis police station a student of economics. I came out almost a Communist."

The Monkey Law

Tennessee is thinking of withdrawing her legislative endorsement of the book of Genesis as the true story of creation, and taking from dusty shelves the books of science she has ignored. If she does, she will bring to an end one of the strangest episodes in the modern world.

It is six years since Tennessee enacted her "monkey law" and almost that long since John L. Scopes was tried, convicted and fined for teaching evolution in the public schools.

Most of the world snickered at Tennessee or deplored her for ignorance or bigotry. But, looking back on it all, it is possible to concede that Tennessee unintentionally may have performed a useful service in doing what she did.

Certainly she educated many thousands of people in the scientific theories she forbade her own children to learn. Scattered through many states were adults and young people who never heard any except the Biblical theory of creation until their newspapers laid a feast of scientific thought before them in the summer of 1925.

The Scopes trial, featuring two of the nation's most famous lawyers and reported in every paper in the country, undoubtedly educated thousands of people in Tennessee and other states and, perhaps, housed in them a desire for learning they had not possessed before.

Furthermore, it is easy to imagine Tennessee youth during the last six years seeking out scientific treatises with all the zest reserved for forbidden literature. Perhaps Tennessee has hit upon the perfect method for making education interesting.

Perhaps she will be making a mistake if she removes Darwin from the shelf where the DeCameron is hidden and puts him back in the compulsory course of study.

Mars and the Dole

There is much concern and some hysteria about the mounting appropriations throughout the world for unemployment relief. The controversy over the congressional appropriation of \$25,000,000 for drought relief occupied the front pages for weeks.

Constitution greeted the announcement that congress had appropriated perhaps half a billion dollars for various types of direct and indirect alleviation of suffering due to the depression and drought. We are astonished and dismayed to learn that Britain is spending \$5,000,000 a week, or \$250,000,000 a year, under the so-called "dole" system.

Undoubtedly it is a deplorable and unhealthy socio-economic condition which renders any such large-scale relief necessary. Yet such expenditures

are slight in volume and noble in purpose compared to our current expenditures for armaments on the heels of the great war to end war.

In the first half of the present fiscal year, from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1930, our federal government spent no less than \$1,127,651,670 for war purposes. Britain spends more than twice the cost of her dole system for the luxury of maintaining her supremacy on the seas in a world which officially has renounced war as an instrument of national policy.

Authorities estimate that in 1931 the civilized world is spending about \$5,000,000,000 for war purposes in this Kellogg era.

Therefore, when we read of current increases in the federal income taxes, let us not be misled by the current ballyhoo to the effect that this all is due to increased relief expenditures.

If we were to show the slightest public honesty and indicate that we believe in our official protestations of peace, by slashing war expenditures, we greatly could increase relief appropriations and yet reduce taxes.

Mars still is the greatest burden on the backs of man, as he has been since war started back in the days of savagery.

The Right Spirit

President Hoover and Secretary Hyde have shown the right spirit in relaxing agriculture department regulations on farm relief loans. The \$65,000,000 fund recently appropriated is involved.

The original regulations, limiting seed and feed loans to a maximum of \$2,000 and rehabilitation loans to \$1,000, proved unreasonably strict. Such loans, when made, failed to achieve the relief purpose of the legislation. Other features of the regulations were so severe and involved that farmers generally protested.

Relief can not be extended to those who need it most, because the law specifically required security, and many farmers have had their securities wiped out by a decade of distress, capped by the drought. But the administration, under the new order, clearly intends to go so far as the law allows in the direction of liberal interpretation.

The need is especially great. The Red Cross just has reported a serious food shortage in 400 counties of the drought area. At the same time the agriculture department reports that prices of farm products still are declining, having reached in February the lowest point in twenty years. The present farm price index is 90, which is 41 points lower than last year.

Rather than fix any new rigid regulations for relief loans, the administration has decided very wisely to leave wide discretion to the local administrative agents, who are in a position to weigh individual needs.

If these local agents will carry out the new instructions as liberally as intended, many desperate farmers will be able to get enough money to feed their children and to plant the crops upon which they must depend.

The Dam Goes Up

The timid said it couldn't be done. Arizona said it shouldn't be done. Private power interests said the same.

It's that awful thing, "government in business." It's the boldestfeat in engineering since the Panama canal, man's most arrogant gesture toward nature. Yet up it goes, far off yonder in the granite canyons of Nevada's wilderness.

A contract for nearly \$50,000,000, six times the largest ever before let by the United States government, has been awarded to a six-ply group of contractors. A railroad is being built into the gorge. A model circular city, with parks, playgrounds, amusement centers, and all is being planted on what till now has been a howling wilderness.

Soon the ugly bronco Colorado that men have feared for centuries will be bridled, tamed and made to tread out 600,000-horse power of electricity, carry water to a score of thirsty cities, gently let down its waters to irrigate instead of destroy the valleys below.

There's something fateful about the way things get done, an implacable logic to events that men seem powerless to thwart. It was logical that Boulder dam be built. So the big dam goes up.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THE Indiana legislature was in session for sixty-two days and about all it did was to legalize prize fighting.

There will not be a special session unless we should decide to go in for fighting, which is much more refined.

If we are going to regulate any fights, it's not necessary to create any new ones.

We have a number of old ones that need regulation.

For instance, there are the fights between husbands and wives over bridge.

These encounters call loudly for state supervision, inasmuch as more and more they are leading to the divorce court and in several states have resulted in murder.

Out in Missouri, Jim Reed recently secured an acquittal for a lady who shot her beloved after a card quarrel.

Then there are dog fights which need regulation and we are surprised that our legislators did not meet this crisis by establishing a proper board.

But more important still are the cat fights which might molest the repose of the masses.

During his service on the bench of Massachusetts and the supreme bench at Washington, Justice Holmes has listened to the arguments of lawyers for almost fifty years.

And now at 90 he is in splendid health.

We'll say he has an iron constitution.

THE enthusiastic tumult which greets Charlie Chaplin as he goes from one European capital to another should tell us how to popularize our foreign market.

Instead of making ambassadors out of politicians, we should send Douglas Fairbanks, Bull Montana, Joe E. Brown, Tom Mix and Robert Montgomery.

The prince of Wales has been winning at baccarat in South America, the very game in which his distinguished grandfather lost his reputation years ago in London.

Miss Grace Kyselka, a clerk in a department store at Wheeling, W. Va., dislocated her jaw while yawning, which leads one to the conclusion that business is not very brisk in Wheeling, W. Va.

Finding his son on the road to health should

help President Hoover to forget all his trouble.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Have We Gone Too Far in Endowing Our Institutions of Higher Learning?

CINCINNATI, Dec. 20.—Here is an incident which occurred in an editor's office somewhere in the United States and some time since March 1.

A rich man just had given \$2,000 to his pet college, but didn't want the story printed, and had called on the editor to see if the latter would agree not to print it.

He didn't care for publicity of that sort, the rich man explained; didn't believe generosity was a thing to be advertised, and so on.

The editor was unconvinced. He appreciated his visitor's feelings, naturally, but couldn't see that the story deserved suppression on such grounds.

"Well," said the rich man, "here is something which may not have occurred to you. With times so hard and so many people hungry, I may be criticised for giving such a large amount to education, and, frankly, I do not want to be exposed to it."

Is Education Overdone?

RADER, what would you have done had you been that editor?

The question goes to the bottom of one of our biggest problems, especially as it has been revealed by recent events.

Have we gone too far in endowing our institutions of higher learning, and, if so, should we hesitate to expose scared philanthropists to criticism?

Until now, we have proceeded on the conviction that too much could not be done for education, particularly in the way of endowments.

Until now, we have entertained no doubts whatever as to the wisdom of piling up all the money behind it that could be wrung out of the people.

Until now, we have nothing but praise for those who made our colleges and universities strong from a financial standpoint.

With thousands of their graduates tramping up and down our city streets in a vain hunt for work, is it possible that we may have overdone the job?

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A Gigantic Mill

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, The Health Magazine.

ALMOST every one knows that the application of heat helps to relieve pain and therefore is helpful in the treatment of rheumatic joints.

Light rays are provided by the longer infra-red rays, which have little power to penetrate the skin; the short rays, which penetrate somewhat more deeply; and the red rays which actually may heat the blood as it passes through the capillaries in the skin.

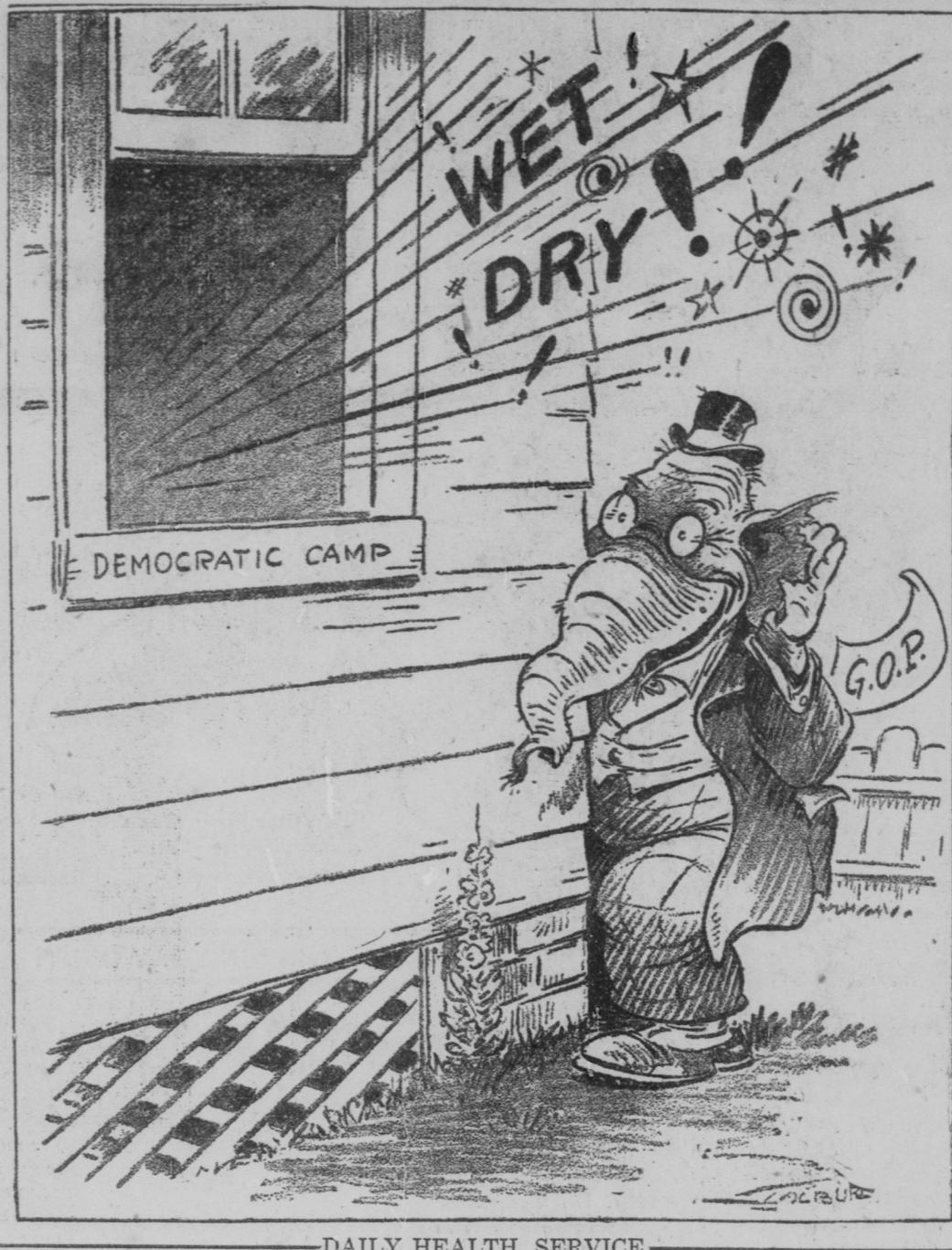
The short infra-red rays provoke flushing of the skin and perspiration.

Sir Leonard Hill of London feels that the special infra-red lamps providing the long infra-red rays are no more helpful than the ordinary incandescent lamps in the reflector or heat cabinet.

Sir Leonard Hill is convinced that the long infra-red rays act by their heating effect and have no other power.

Indeed, he found patients with rheumatism who had been treated for many weeks by short exposure to ultraviolet light and to tungsten arcs, which provide long infra-red rays, receiving more benefit from two to three prolonged exposures to incandescent lamps than

Music to His Ears



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

'Cheap' Heat Aids Rheumatism Relief

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they had gotten in previous weeks from other sources.

The British physiologists are convinced that the heat appears to be the active element, accomplishing its results in the treatment of rheumatism by provoking perspiration, a pouring out of fluids, a lessening of pain, and an increase in nutrition.

It is therefore, unnecessary to have highly expensive sources of light for the treatment of cases of rheumatism.

Heat, such as can be developed by the incandescent light in the cabinet or by the reflector, or by any other source of heat of equal power, should be suitable to the purpose.

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